

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-42 cancelled

43. (new) A computer-based method for reducing clutter within a comparison of documents comprising:

receiving through a graphical user interface an input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable differences per level of the documents;

comparing a first level section of the documents;

determining that there is at least one difference between the documents within the first level section;

identifying a set of second level sections that are sub-sections of the first level section;

comparing each of the second level sections to determine whether there is at least one difference between the documents within the second level section;

calculating a quantity of non-matching second level sections in which there is at least one difference between the documents;

determining whether the quantity of non-matching second level sections is more than the maximum number of displayable differences;

if not, then displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections; and

if so, then returning to the first level section and displaying an identification of the first level section as a non-matching section without displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections.

44. (new) The method of claim 43, comprising receiving through the graphical user interface the input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable different characters per line.

45. (new) The method of claim 43, comprising receiving through the graphical user interface the input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable different lines per paragraph.

46. (new) The method of claim 43, comprising receiving through the graphical user interface a plurality of inputs, each of which is specific to a particular level of the documents.

47. (new) The method of claim 46, wherein receiving through the graphical user interface the plurality of inputs comprises:

receiving through the graphical user interface a first input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable different lines per paragraph; and

receiving through the graphical user interface a second input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable different characters per line.

48. (new) The method of claim 43, comprising receiving through the graphical user interface an input that is adjustable by a user.

49. (new) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving through a graphical user interface an input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable differences per level of the documents;

comparing a first level section of the documents;

determining that there is at least one difference between the documents within the first level section;

identifying a set of second level sections that are sub-sections of the first level section;

comparing each of the second level sections to determine whether there is at least one difference between the documents within the second level section;

calculating a quantity of non-matching second level sections in which there is at least one difference between the documents;

determining whether the quantity of non-matching second level sections is more than the maximum number of displayable differences;

if not, then displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections; and

if so, then returning to the first level section and displaying an identification of the first level section as a non-matching section without displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections.

50. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the input corresponds to a maximum number of displayable different characters per line.

51. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the input corresponds to a maximum number of displayable different lines per paragraph.

52. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the input comprises a plurality of inputs, each of which is specific to a particular level of the documents.

53. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the plurality of inputs comprises:

a first input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable different lines per paragraph; and

a second input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable different characters per line.

54. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the input is adjustable by a user.

55. (new) A system for reducing clutter within a comparison of documents comprising:
a graphical user interface that receives an input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable differences per level of the documents;

an editor for displaying the comparison of the documents;

the documents each comprising a first level section and a set of second level sections that are subsections of the first level section; and

a merge subsystem that calculates a quantity of non-matching second level sections in which there is at least one difference between the documents, and displays the differences on the editor such that:

if the quantity of non-matching second level sections is more than the maximum number of displayable differences, then identifications of the non-matching second level sections are displayed; and

if the quantity of non-matching second level sections is not more than the maximum number of displayable differences, then an identification of the first level section as a non-matching section is displayed without displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections.

56. (new) The system of claim 55, wherein the input corresponds to a maximum number of displayable different characters per line.

57. (new) The system of claim 55, wherein the input corresponds to a maximum number of displayable different lines per paragraph.

58. (new) The system of claim 55, wherein the input comprises a plurality of inputs, each of which is specific to a particular level of the documents.

59. (new) The system of claim 58, wherein the plurality of inputs comprises:
a first input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable different lines per paragraph; and
a second input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable different characters per line.

60. (new) The system of claim 55, wherein the input is adjustable by a user.